Statement

Year of recruitment	No. of ITS officers recruited
1979	90
1980	60
1981	100
1982	118
1983	150
1984	150
1985	150
1986	150
1987	175
1988	81
1989	135
1990	136
1991	120
1992	155
1993	99

Extinction of Gharial

4522. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gharial' is one among the 600 species of animals and birds facing extinction in the country;

(b) whether it ft also a fact that the number of gharialS, which was 143 during 1974-77, came down to 60-70 in the year 1982.

(c) if so, their number at present; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any measures to protect this species from extinction and its commercial far ming for earning foreign exchangfe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
(a) Althougli Gharial (Gavialis gange-':icusj it categorised as an endangered species, it is not facing the threat of extinction at present.

(b) and (c) No. Sir. The estimated population of Gharial during 1970 was 75 but in the 1980's their number in-creased to about 500 distributed in major rivers of U.P., M.P., Orissa and Assam. According to a report of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in 1993 the poplation of Ghariah was estimated at about 1500 in the wild and over 450 is captivity.

(d) The Gharial is included * under Schedule I Part II of Wild Life (Pro-lection) Act, 1972, thereby receiving highest legal protection under the Act. Jt is al'so covered by Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade im Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which prohibits inter-national trade in the species and its products'. There are four centres in the country where breeding of gharials take place for rehabilitation into their natural! habitats. Over 3,500 gharials have been leleased in natural waters so far. There is no proposal for commercial forming of the species for earning foreign ex-chan,g?.

Loss of forest land

4523. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.3 mil lion acres of forest cover is being lost every year in India, despite Central Gov ernment's allocation of funds for Waste land development every year, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the lOtb March, 1995.

(b) whether it is also a fact that due-to deforestation, India's flood pronei areas increased from 55.6 million acres in the late 1960s, to 130 million acres by the end of the 80s;

(c) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to make Wastelands deve lopment, programme Successful in the country, indicating budgetory allocations/ provisions, State-wise, as against the! last year and reasons for the slow pro gress made during 1995-96 in this regard;- and

(d) the funds/assistance received from other internallextemal agencies for deve lopment of Wasteland in the country during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table, of the House.

Impact of Chlor Alkaline Plant

4524. SHRI KRISHAN TAL .SHARMA: Will the Minister of EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS he pleased to state:

(a) .whether it is a fact that a hazardous Chlor Alkaline plant, which was shut down due to opposition from the environmentalists jn Norway, has been shifted to India and is beinig set up in Vapi, Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the plant will be using that most hazardous chemicals and wiU be jnanufacturing toxic pesticides; and

(c) if so, the reasons for permitting import of such plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATHI: (a) The Environmental Impact Assessment Notifications, 1994 requires 29 categoriet; of developmental projects, in-cluding clloralkali plants to obtain an environmental clearance from the Central Government. So far no proposal for .such a project has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Centrally aided Environment Projdcts in Maharashtra and Gujarat

4525. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI-BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally aided projects launched to save environment and forests in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the achievement made in this regard;

(c) the financial assistance provided in each scheme in each district of Gujarat and Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of the scheme proposed to be launched in the near future in Gujarat and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH : (a) to (C) The details of Centrally aided Projects launched, to save environment and forests alongwith achievements both financial and physical during the last three years in the States of Mahara-shtra and Gujarat are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173. Annexure No. 92) etc.

(d) The projects are continuing in n:>ture.

टैक्साल वृक्षों की सुरक्षा

4526. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 13 सितम्बर 1994 के दैनिक "हिन्दुस्तान" में उद्योग वनस्पति" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें यह कहा गया है कि टैक्साल नामक वृक्ष की छाल और पत्तियों